A WITCH EXECUTED ^TH DEC

Afterwards being brought before Sir Richard Martin, he having heard that a -witch's hair could not be cut, commanded a sergeant to pull from her head ten or twelve of her hairs and try if he could cut them The sergeant did so, and offering to cut them with a pair of barber's scissors, they turned round in his hand , and the edges were so battered, turned, and quite spoiled as that they would not cut anything Then the sergeant tool the hair and did put it into the fire to burn it, but the fire fle^v from it, and the hair lay m the midst thereof unburnt

loth December A TRLCE WITH TYRONE

On the ist of the month the Earl of Ormond and Sir Geoffrey Fenton met with Tyrone and there acquainted him with a letter that they received from her Majesty concerning his receiving again into mercy After some parleying, upon the next day, a cessation is concluded until the end of this present month.

iyb December THE E\RL OF ESSEX'S SICKNESS

It is noted that the Earl of Essex received the Communion last Sunday, afterwards he sent unto her Majesty his two patents as Master of the Horse and of the Ordnance, which she sent back again , that of Earl Marshal he keeps and will during his life My Lady Essex had leave yesterday to go to him, and so she did , but found him so weak that there is little hope of his recovery

i^tb December THE STATE OF IRELAND

The state of Ireland is now grown very perilous, for the arch-traitor affirmates publicly that his conscience and the Catholic religion were the causes that carried him into this rebellion in which he will live and die It is much feared therefore that jf new forces be not speedily sent, the main blow to

be struck for that kingdom is not far off The companies are grown so weak that of the number of 2,800 assigned for the army at Navan there remains but 1,330 and of that number 200 or 300 might have been culled out for unserviceable There are everywhere great deficiencies, partly by reason of the frauds of the commissaries of musters, partly also because great numbers are sick by their own disorder and the hardness of the climate and the ill-condition of a great portion of the victuals sent from England